









YEAH.. IF I
CHANGED THE
GENERATIONAL
BRAND NAME,
CUSTOMERS
WOULD STOP
COMING, SO I
KEPT IT.

IS
OKAJIMA-
SAN THE
MASTER'S
NAME?

PEOPLE
DON'T EAT
JAPANESE
CONFECTIONS
ANYMORE.

SO DO
YOU STILL
GET A LOT
OF
ORDERS?

IS
THAT
SO?

NAH..
BUSINESS
IS
THINNING
OUT.

THAT'S A
GREAT
CONCERN.

ESPECIALLY
JAPANESE
CONFECTIONS
MADE FROM
PATTERNED MOLDS.
AS INCOME
DECREASES, SO
DO THE NUMBER
OF MOLDS. IT'S
GETTING TOUGH
EVERY YEAR.



I WAS A
DESIGN
MAJOR AT
AN ARTS
COLLEGE IN
KYOTO.



WHAT
MADE YOU
WANT TO
PURSUE
THIS ART?



I
EVENTUALLY
LEARNED
ABOUT
WOODBLOCK
MOLDS, WHICH
GRABBED MY
INTEREST.



I STUDIED
TRADITIONAL
JAPANESE
FAMILY
CREST
DESIGNS AT
FIRST.



I WAS
EXTREMELY
IMPRESSED BY
HIS TECHNICAL
SKILLS. I HAD
NO IDEA A PLACE
LIKE THIS EXISTED
IN ALL OF JAPAN,
WHERE SUCH
DELICATE DESIGNS
OF NATURAL
FLOWERS AND
VEGETATION WERE
CRAFTED.

SO
I VISITED THE
MASTER TO
WATCH HIM
WORK, AND
I WAS
SURPRISED.



THE MASTER
TOLD ME I
SHOULDN'T, AND
TURNED ME
DOWN. BUT I
PERSISTED
UNTIL HE
GAVE IN.

SO I
REQUESTED
AN INTERNSHIP
TO LEARN THE
SKILLS TO
DESIGN IN
HIS FIELD.



FINALLY HE
ALLOWED ME TO
WORK ON MY OWN,
AND JUST WHEN I
GETTING READY
TO REPAY HIS
KINDNESS, THE
MASTER PASSED
AWAY.

IT TOOK ME
TEN YEARS
BEFORE HE
APPROVED MY
SKILLS. IN
THE MEANTIME,
I WORKED AT
A BAR FOR A
LIVING.



BUT I'M
SURE HE WAS
RELIEVED
THAT YOU
HAD BECOME
THE
SUCCESSOR
TO HIS ART,
KOGURE-SAN.

I
SEE.



I WANTED
HIM TO SEE
HOW FAR I
HAD COME,
SO IT WAS
A REAL
SHAME.





HE'S
PLANNING ON
SELLING THE
PROPERTY
LINED WITH
PARTITIONED
HOUSES.

I'M PAYING
THE RENT
NOW, BUT THE
LANDOWNER
JUST GAVE ME
NOTICE TO
MOVE.



HE'S
GOING TO
SELL THE ROW
AND DEMOLISH
IT. I HAVE NO
CHOICE BUT
TO MOVE.

THE
BUILDING
IS OLD
AND NOT
UP TO
SAFETY
STAND-
ARDS.



I SEE.



I'M
GOING
OUT OF
BUSINESS.
IT SEEMS
INEVITA-
BLE.

WHICH
MEANS
I'D HAVE
TO RENT
SOMEWHERE
ELSE, BUT
FRANKLY
I CAN'T
AFFORD IT.





I SEE.



THAT'S WAY BELOW THE MARKET VALUE.

I CAN'T LET THAT PROPERTY GO AT 50 MILLION.



...AND TELL HIM THE SELLER WANTS TO DISCUSS IT WITH HIM DIRECTLY?

WHY DON'T YOU CONTACT YOUR GRANDFATHER WHO'S LOOKING TO BUY PROPERTY...



BESIDES, I CAN'T BELIEVE KIDS WILL BUY PROPERTY. I NEED SOLID CONFIRMATION FROM A CO-SIGNER.



I GUESS HE DOESN'T WANT TO NEGOTIATE WITH ME.



PLEASE GIVE HIM A CALL...



HE THINKS HE'S WASTING HIS TIME TALKING TO CHILDREN.



HUH?



LET'S
CALL
THE
WHOLE
THING
OFF.

I
UNDER-
STAND.



IT'S NOT
THAT I
DON'T
TRUST
YOU

JUST
WAIT A
SECOND.



YUP, I
AGREE.

LET'S
GO.



COME
ON, SIT
BACK
DOWN.



SO HE'S STILL
INTERESTED IN
SELLING FOR
50 MILLION YEN
IN CASH.

HE STOPPED
ME, WHICH
MEANS HE
DOESN'T
WANT TO
CALL IT OFF.



I CAN'T
SELL THE
PLACE
FOR
ONLY 50
MILLION.

WELL,
YEAH,
BUT...



ARE YOU
SELLING
OR NOT?
PLEASE
MAKE A
DECISION.

I DON'T
HAVE A
LOT OF
TIME TO
TALK.



THAT'S A
DISCOUNT OF
10 MILLION.
IT'S QUITE A
BARGAIN.

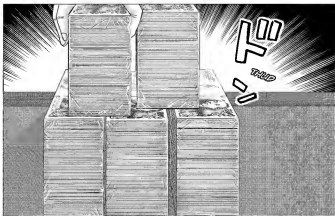
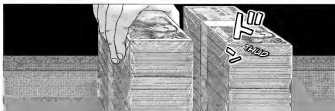
BUT I'D BE
WILLING TO
SETTLE
FOR 60
MILLION.



NO... I
WON'T BUY
UNLESS
IT'S FOR 50
MILLION.



LISTEN,
I'M THE
ONE
TAKING
THE HIT
HERE...











WHAT'S
THE SIZE OF
THIS ROW OF
PARTITIONED
HOUSES, AND
WHAT'S THE
PRICE?



60 MILLION
YEN FOR
30
TSUBOS..



I HEARD IT'S
AROUND 30
TSUBOS, IN THE
RANGE OF 60
MILLION YEN.

(30 tsubos = 99 square meters)



HUH?



ARE YOU
GOING TO
BUY IT OR
SOME-
THING?



